

Sustainability Commission



January 11, 2019

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

City of Franklin –CDCR – City Hall

8:00 am	Welcome/Introductions	All
8:05 am	*Approval of November Meeting Minutes	All
8:05 am – 8:10 am	Announcements: Welcome Brenton Montgomery AARP Age-Friendly Communities Program LEED for Cities Case Study Hytch Update Other News	Andrew Orr
8:10 am – 8:15 am	Elect Chair and Vice Chair	Dana Kose
8:15 am – 8:40 am	Discuss Proposed 2019 Activities*	Dana Kose
8:40 am – 8:55 am	Zone Franklin: Zoning Ordinance Update	Kelly Dannenfelser
8:55 am -- 9:00 am	Other News/Adjourn	All

*Item contains an attachment or link

MISSION STATEMENT: The Sustainability Commission provides guidance to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Commission and leadership for the entire Franklin Community.

Brenton Montgomery (12/11/2021)
Will Dodson (12/13/2019)
Beverly Burger (BOMA co-terminus)
Patrick Baggett (Franklin Tomorrow co-terminus)
Mike Leonard (12/12/2020)

Todd Palmer (8/9/2019)
Dana Kose (12/13/2019)
Nancy Whittemore (10/23/2021)
Micah Wood (10/23/2021)

The City of Franklin has committed itself to developing an ongoing strategy of sustainability for the community. This initiative will be designed to achieve viable, fulfilling, and rewarding lifestyles for our residents and business partners through responsible and innovative stewardship of the environment.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

November 2, 2018

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Friday, November 2, 2018, at 8:00 a.m., in the Community Development Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Dana Kose, Alderman Beverly Burger, Mike Leonard, Will Dodson, Todd Palmer, Patrick Baggett, and Nancy Whittemore

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Bob Moreo and Micah Wood.

Visitors: Brenton Montgomery – Lockheed Martin Energy

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Elaine Ellis, Emily Hunter

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Kose called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Palmer moved, seconded by **Mr. Dodson**, to approve the minutes from August 3, 2018. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Announcements

Commission Member Updates

Mr. Orr stated that **Vice-Chair Moreo** had submitted his resignation from the Sustainability Commission effective immediately. **Mr. Orr** stated that legal notices for a new member would be published in the Williamson Herald. The election for a new Chair and Vice-Chair would be held at the January meeting.

Mr. Orr also stated that **Mr. Wood** and **Ms. Whittemore** were reappointed to serve a new term.

Harlinsdale Park Pedestrian Bridge

Mr. Orr stated the City had received a grant to build a pedestrian bridge over the Harpeth River that would connect the Chestnut Bend walking trail to Harlinsdale Park. **Mr. Orr** stated that it will be a few years before the pedestrian bridge will be constructed. The bridge will be a connection to the greenway.

Franklin City Commission Updates

Mr. Orr and **Ms. Emily Hunter** discussed that the Franklin Municipal Planning Commission and the Historic Zoning Commission will each be seeking a new member. Legal notices seeking Letters of Interest would be placed in the Williamson Herald.

Future Meeting Dates

The Commission agreed to have a breakfast meeting at Biscuit Love on December 7, 2018 and to move the January meeting to January 11, 2019.

Other News

Mr. Orr stated that he would attend the Tennessee Solar Conference during the week of November 5th.

Mr. Baggett stated that the City of Franklin Planning Department did a great job in participating in the Franklin Tomorrow On the Table event. He stated that he will provide the results from the survey for the Commission to consider. **Ms. Kose** asked for Mr. Baggett to expand on this topic. **Mr. Baggett** stated that this event was held October 30th – November 2nd. The event invited the community to come and discuss issues concerning the community over a meal. Each person attending was sent a survey via text. Franklin Tomorrow will make the results public for use. **Alderman Burger** attended the event at Columbia State Community College. She stated that there was a great discussion with thirty attendees. She stated that they liked the Blue Bag Recycle Program and the Greenways. **Ms. Kose** asked how the comments would be gathered. **Mr. Baggett** stated a third party would tally the information and present the report in January, 2019.

Ms. Kose has been awarded LEED Fellow status by the USGBC.

LEED for Cities Update

Mr. Orr stated that the City of Franklin had completed the following steps toward certification:

1. Registration
2. Pre-certification
3. Finished Data Submission
4. USGBC reviewed information
5. Certification Awarded: Silver - 57 points

Mr. Orr stated that the City is 3 points away from Gold status.

Category	Maximum Score	Score Received
Energy	33	11
Water	15	9
Waste	8	8
Transportation	14	0

Human Experience	20	20
Base Points	10	9

The following discussion ensued between **Mr. Orr, Mr. Leonard, Alderman Burger, Ms. Kose, and Ms. Whittemore:**

- The emissions score was raised six points because TVA switched from coal to natural gas.
- Understand the metrics and formulations more to use for future data. The metrics help the City to use information to improve areas in the future.
- For the waste score, the data submitted did not include data from the Business sector.
- More attention needs to be given to the Transportation category. The following suggestions were made to help improve the transportation score:
 - Consider the number of people who work from home.
 - Have more Mixed-Use communities with a denser environment. This will cut down on energy usage because people could walk to work.
 - Use information from local census which is conducted every two years. Include questions to find out how many miles people drive to work daily.
 - The future trend will be for companies with large office buildings to provide flex hours, such as working four days, instead of five. Also, many companies will provide satellite offices helping to provide a shorter commute for employees.
- The data will be an important tangible, tool for the City to use.
- The LEED certification status last for five years, but the score can be improved annually.
- The data for Waste concentrated on residential. There is a need to help businesses improve in this area.
- The Base Points included a carbon reduction plan, LEED buildings, resilience plan, Battlefield work, and more.
- The score for Base Points did not give any credit for Biodiversity which is the variety of life in the ecosystem. **Mr. Orr** will get back to this topic at a later date. Issues to consider in this category:
 - Harpeth River
 - Climate
 - Bringing back native plantings and wildlife back, including birds, bees, and pollination

- Areas where the wildlife and plantings are threatened due to development
- Use information from the Tree Commission and Parks Department
- Present numbers to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. This will help show where we are right now and areas that need improvement.

Hytch App

Mr. Orr stated that a commuting survey was made available to the City of Franklin Employees. The survey compared information from 2008 to recent information for 2018. The information collected included:

<u>Question</u>	<u>Response (highest)</u>
• Where does the employee live?	Franklin/Spring Hill
• Number of miles traveled to work (one way)?	15-20 miles
• Amount of time it takes to get to work (one way)?	20-30 minutes, (25% =40+ miles)
• Satisfaction with time it takes to get to work?	Yes, but increase in dissatisfaction since 2008
• Does the employee work between 6-9 am?	Yes – 72%
• Satisfied with how the employee gets to work?	Yes – 86%
• Incentives to encourage employee to use alternative form of transportation?	Telecommuting – 35%, carpool-22%
• Since employee began working for City, has commute changed?	Same – 44% Longer -39%
• If City partnered with Hytch, how likely is the employee to use it?	Combined: Likely, Very Likely, Consider -43%
• How much would the financial incentive need to be for the employee to use Hytch?	More than 15 cents/mile – 11%

Over 200 employees responded to the survey. The survey summary states:

- 98% drive alone to work
- Commute times are increasing (45% travel at least 30 minutes one-way)
- Fewer employees living in Franklin and Spring Hill
- Significant increase of employees coming from Nashville
- 40% of respondents have worked for the city less than five years
- Incentive must be high enough for employees to use the app
- Desire for work from home flexibility

Ms. Whittemore, Mr. Baggett, Mr. Leonard, Ms. Kose, Ms. Hunter and Mr. Orr discussed the following:

- Using Hytch (carpooling) would free up much needed parking spaces
- Cross reference information including income range, salary, job position, etc. Use information to help recruit employees possibly with a financial incentive. Ask if employees prefer to live in outer lying areas or are they living out due to housing cost.
- The City will have a kickoff party to launch the partnership with Hytch.
- The City would establish a budget of \$3000 (25% will go to Hytch user fees) for the program.
- The program would not begin before January, 2019 because the contracts must be reviewed by the Law Department.

Commission Questionnaire

<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
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Meeting Time	Keep the same: 1 st Friday/month at 8 am
Frequency of Meetings	Keep monthly meetings: 9 to 10 meeting/year
Location	Keep at City Hall
Meeting Topics Interesting/Relevant	Keep updates from other commissions. Topics should continue to support Mr. Orr and the direction the City is wanting to go, while also advising the direction of the City. Some want to make a bigger contribution but aren't sure how. Topics should fuel an action for the Commission.
Topic suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bike sharing (Vanderbilt, Nashville – share experience), transportation, livability/community ▪ Updates/presentations from the Parks Department, Engineering Department (roadway improvements) and/or Franklin Transit on things like trails, greenways, sidewalks, or other pedestrian connections throughout town ▪ Strategy session to determine priorities that BOMA wants us to investigate plus our own specific interests and initiatives – We don't typically get direction from BOMA – they rely on us to provide direction; in early 2018 we discussed interests/initiatives and created groups to undertake each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update Sustainability Plan ▪ Urban Green Lab ▪ Green Business Initiative

Other Business

Alderman Burger stated that she is working on a pedestrian plan for the Cool Springs area. She would like to see people use alternative modes of transportation during the day such as walking, bikes, and scooters. Many people will not walk because of the heat and they are wearing business clothes. Scooters would provide an alternative. She stated that multi-use paths are needed in the Carothers Parkway and McEwen area. She stated that pedestrian bridges and crosswalks are needed. She would like to see the expectation level raised and education promoted through social media. She stated this effort would add to the local sustainability and save the City thousands of dollars. She wants to see the City do a better job of moving people. This will be her focus for 2019.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.